



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release

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Rail funding vital for economic future

The move to secure rail services in Tasmania is vital to the economic future of the region says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom.

He said an announcement by Federal and State Governments of \$195m in rail funding today would be important to the security of industry and the State's economy.

"I welcome the fact that Federal funds are being allocated to refurbishing the main railway system to benefit both our region and Tasmania as a whole.

"A properly functioning rail system, so long neglected in the past decade, is an essential driver for our economy and a vital contributor to road safety.

"Without a properly functioning rail network there is no point in having spur lines which can't be used.

"In my discussions with Minister Albanese I made it clear that our funding commitment to the Wiltshire line, if redirected or deferred in the interim, was to be spent on improving the rail infrastructure of our region. I am pleased to see that this has largely occurred.

"If there is a demand for greater freight out of the Circular Head district in the future then I would expect the State Government and my government would look at the need and respond accordingly."

Funding estimates within our region include –

- Burnie - Melba Flats \$15.7m
- Burnie - Devonport \$10.923m
- Devonport - Railton \$3.882m
- Railton - Deloraine \$6m
- Deloraine - Western Junction \$9.495m

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